



## U.S. Department of Justice

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **MAN CHARGED WITH DESTRUCTION OF MAIL BOXES**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that DUSTIN J. WELLS, 18, Indianapolis, was charged today with four counts of destruction of a mailbox following an investigation by the United States Postal Inspection Service and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.

The information alleges that on July 5, 2004, Dustin J. Wells and other unnamed individuals destroyed four mailboxes in Avon by placing homemade devices in the mailboxes. One mail box was destroyed when law enforcement officers "rendered safe" using an implement to disable a section of PVC pipe filled with black powder that had failed to explode after it was placed in the mailbox. Each of the three remaining mailboxes were destroyed when a

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C02 cannister filled with black powder inside the mailbox exploded.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Joe H. Vaughn, who is prosecuting the case for the government, WELLS faces a maximum possible prison sentence of 12 years and a maximum possible fine of \$1,000,000. An initial hearing is scheduled for September 14, 2004 before a U.S. Magistrate Judge in Indianapolis.

**The information is an allegation only, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at trial or by guilty plea.**

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